

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

6:05p.m. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Green to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) and (a) (9) Possible Litigation involving SORICO and Collective Bargaining Grievance-Custodial.

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Hanaford School Cafeteria at 7:10p.m. by School Committee Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. David Green, and Mrs. Susan Records. Mr. Paul Martin was absent. Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio; Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Student Services Paula Dillon were also present.

7:10p.m.Regular meeting

Dr. Gifford stated there was one vote taken during Executive Session to uphold a grievance by the custodial bargaining unit. Vote 6-0.

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Winters which was seconded by Mr. Durant, the Budget Workshop minutes for January 25, 2011 and January 27, 2011 were unanimously approved (6-0).

IV. Recognition-Middle School State Wrestling Champion-Ebed Jarrell

Ebed Jarrell was recognized by the Committee for his outstanding achievement in wrestling.

V. Superintendent's Report

The job posting for the EGHS Principal closed today. A community forum will be held after the February vacation to gather input/feedback from parents, students, and faculty members. Dr. Mercurio will give date/time information via Alert-Now and by list serv. Dr. Mercurio, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. Sequino, and Mrs. Raposa went to a state-wide UCOA meeting on February 11, 2011. Dr. Mercurio said East Greenwich is in good shape with the rollout. Follow-up meetings will be held in March. Commissioner Gist will visit on March 1, 2011. She will observe a class at Cole and will hold a community forum from 6:30-8:00 in the EGHS library. Dr. Mercurio will send out Alert-Now and list serv notification to the community after the February vacation.

VI. Action Items

a. Presentation and discussion of Ocean State Transit and Student

Transportation of America merger and proposal

Attorney Matthew Oliverio gave background information regarding the current three- year contract with Salter Transportation. He discussed the corporate reorganization that took place in 2009 which created the wholly-owned subsidiary, Ocean State Transit. The proposed transaction presented will make Ocean State a wholly-owned subsidiary of Student Transportation of America (STA).

Current management and bus personnel overseeing the current contract will remain along with bus drivers. Representatives from Student Transportation of America gave the Committee an overview of STA and discussed the potential benefits of this transaction which include an approximate \$50,000 savings to the district (2011-2012 rates will be frozen at 2010-2011 rates). There was discussion whether the contract could be extended and it was noted that extensions are prohibited under RIDE guidelines. Language regarding an extension will be removed. Attorney Oliverio stated he is confident in this draft and approval is subject to viewing the final document. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Consent to Change In Control with the agreement that final approval is contingent based on the language changes as requested.

b. Field Trip –Cole Middle School, Gr.8 French & Latin classes, Ellis Island, NYC- May 6, 2011

On a motion by Mr. Durant which was seconded by Mr. Green, the field trip was unanimously approved (6-0).

c. Field Trip- Cole Middle School, Skip Trip, Sunday River, Maine,

March 4-March 6, 2011

On a motion by Mr. Durant which was seconded by Mr. Green, the field trip was unanimously approved (6-0).

d. Retirement -Jerry Nettik, Director of Technology

On a motion by Mr. Durant which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the retirement was unanimously approved (6-0). Dr. Mercurio noted Mr. Nettik has worked in East Greenwich for 10 years and has undoubtedly seen numerous changes in technology. Dr. Mercurio and Dr. Gifford noted Mr. Nettik's job is tough and they expressed their thanks for his work in the district.

e. Approval of layoffs, suspensions, and non-renewals

On a motion by Mrs. Winters which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the layoffs, suspensions, and non-renewals.

VII. Public Hearing on the FY 2012 Budget

Dr. Mercurio presented the FY2012 budget discussing the district's mission, goals, and student population. Current student enrollment is 2419, which is slightly above the NESDEC projection. The revised BEP (Basic Education Program) was discussed, along with ensuring equity and adequacy of fiscal and human resources. Nondiscretionary budget items account for 93% of the total budget and 7% is discretionary. Mrs. Crawford discussed the proposed revenue with adjustments for FY2012. Adjustments have been made to the proposed 2012 budget which include the addition of 3.3 staff rather than 5.3 staff members. Mrs. Dillon stated the 1.3 itinerants are necessary to meet student needs, participate in special education

team, and for travel time to other buildings. The adjustment changes to the proposed 2012 budget decrease the budget increase (over last year) from a 4.65% to 3.86%. Dr. Mercurio discussed the adjustments noting school configuration and technology direction need to be reviewed. The Committee questioned the elimination of the proposed tech position especially with the new technology at Cole and the upcoming changes at EGHS. There was discussion about using NEIT interns as tech support in the classroom. Mrs. Records stated the district needs to look at the technology strategy now and look at a 5 year budget in respect to technology needs. Dr. Mercurio would like to form a team to seek Champlin grant money for technology. Dr. Gifford commended everyone for their fiscal and educationally prudent work in developing the FY2012 budget.

VIII. Discussion Items

a. Middle School Transition

Cole is being cleaned out and trophy cases have been distributed to EGHS. Display cases have been moved to Hanaford and Eldredge. Mrs. Meyer stated that SBS will create a fly-through digital presentation of Cole for students which will be shown on the Thursday or Friday before April vacation.

Plans have been developed for the first day at Cole with grade 7 students meeting in the cafeteria and grade 8 meeting in the gym. Mrs. Meyer and Mr. Varrecchione continue to review the flow of the building.

b. School Committee Scholarship-\$2,000

c. Structure of subcommittees

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously voted to table items #b & c due to Mr. Martin's absence.

d. Fields MOU

Dr. Mercurio noted there is nothing new to report and he needs to discuss the MOU with the town again. Mr. Cobain has the revised Field's Charge and needs to contact Mrs. Bradley. Dr. Mercurio would like to participate in the first meeting of the Field's Committee.

e. Resolution endorsing RIDE's 5 year Strategic Plan

The Committee discussed RIDE's 5 year Strategic Plan, "Transforming Rhode Island Education." This plan includes five priorities: Ensure Educator Excellence, Accelerate All Schools Toward Greatness, Establish World-Class Standards and Assessments, Develop User-Friendly Data Systems, and Invest Our Resources Wisely. The Committee questioned the necessity of this resolution. Dr. Mercurio noted this plan is a reaffirmation of components in "Race to the Top." On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the endorsement of this resolution.

f. Discussion of 2010 Financial Audit

Mrs. Crawford gave an overview of the audit discussing revenue, expenditures, and the audit findings. She noted there was a significant fund balance in total revenue of \$130,376. The balance was due to a drop in out- of- district tuition and cost savings in administrator salaries. The School Committee is scheduled to meet

with the Town Council on March 7, 2011 at the Town Hall to discuss the 2010 Financial Audit.

IX. School Committee Concerns

Upcoming meetings were discussed. The School Committee will hold a regular meeting on

March 1, 2011 at 6:00p.m. in the EGHS library. At 6:30p.m., a community forum will take place in the library with Commissioner Gist. On March 7th, the School Committee will meet with the Town Council at 7:00p.m. at the town hall to discuss the financial audit. On March 8th, the School Committee will meet to discuss the budget again before sending it the town. Aramark will be discussed at the March 15, 2011 meeting.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Durant which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY